

Appl. Serial No. 09/785,457
Amendment dated July 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 29, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, as amended now stand in the application.

Allowance of the amended claims is courteously solicited for the following reasons.

According to Applicant's invention, a method of constructing directories in terminals connected by a local area network is provided, wherein a message is broadcast from a given first terminal, and decoded at a second terminal which extracts the name and address of the given terminal. The extracted name and address are inserted into a directory of the second terminal, whereby a response message is transmitted to the sending terminal. The response message is decoded, and the name and address of the second terminal are extracted and inserted in mapping relationship into a directory of the first terminal.

Applicant courteously contends that the invention recited in claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

In the Matsubara, et al., patent No. 6,335,812, a communication system is disclosed having relay terminal Cs between an optical communication section having a infrared (IrDa) terminal Cc and a LAN network with plural LAN terminals C1, C2, C3 (Fig.5).

Each terminal stores an identifier as terminal discrimination information. This identifier is used as source address when the terminal transmits (broadcasts) information to other terminals and as destination address when the terminal receives information (Col. 6, line 62, to Col. 7, line 7, and Col. 7, lines 58-65). A table (memory section 119, Figs. 6, 7, 8) in the terminal stores mapping (matching) relationships between terminal identifiers and attributes. An attribute indicates the kind of the receiving section 110 or 113, i.e., the kind of network (LAN or IrDA) to which the terminal of the identifier ID is connected (Col. 7, lines 2-16) (see table in Fig.9 for the relay terminal Cs and table in

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Fig.10 for the LAN terminal C1 which see all the terminals, including the IrDA terminal Cc, as connected to LAN network).

The attribute of a given terminal is used to route a message with a destination identifier identical to the identifier of the given terminal, emitted from another terminal, to the network of the given terminal, e.g., from receiving section 110 or 113 to sending section 111 or 112.

The attribute depending on this kind of receiving section is therefore never included in a message transmitted from a terminal and is only created and stored (Col. 9, lines 14-31).

Therefore, the Matsubara table (Figs. 9, 10) is not a directory (correspondence between names and addresses) which is progressively and automatically built and completed after each installation or connection of a terminal.

As a result, a message from a Matsubara terminal includes an identifier as address and no usual name FA3 of the terminal (Page 7, lines 8-18) to be read by the users. The Matsubara identifier is a network address, as an IP address PA1 in a packet shown in Fig. 2 of the outstanding application.

Information sent by any one of the terminals Cs, Cc, C1 does not include two data, as sub-fields D01 (IP address) and D03 (usual name) according to the Applicant's invention, and therefore, does not include a relationship to be inserted into a directory of the terminal (Col. 8, lines 22-30 and 47-53; Col. 9, lines 20-31 and 50-58). The relationship between the terminal identifier and the attribute in communicable terminal memory section 119 (tables in Figs. 9 and 10) is not transmitted in a response information (message) to another terminal (Col. 9, lines 58 to Col. 10, lines 14). The table in section 119 is only used to find a reference to one of sending sections 110, 111 (Col. 11, lines 20-51).

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Consequently, Matsubara does not suggest all the claim 1 and particularly the third paragraph relation to extracting, inserting and transmitting steps.

Comparing with claim 2, a group of terminals is created from one of the terminals, e.g., the relay terminal Cs (Col. 15, line 65, to Col. 17, line 13), firstly by sending a group creation request to all the other terminals of defined group and reading a permission/rejection in the response information from all the other terminals, secondly by associating a group identifier with the identifiers of the terminal that replied to the group creation permission information in a group information memory section 121 of relay terminal Cs, and by transmitting the group identifier and the terminal identifiers as a group creation result information to the other terminals.

Then, when a terminal has to multicastly send a request of information for the created group, the terminal identifiers of member terminals of the group are retrieved in group memory section 121 and compared with the terminal identifiers 119 to direct the request to be broadcast to corresponding reading sections 110, 119 (Col. 17, lines 16-35; or Col. 17, line 38, to Col. 18, lines 12).

Therefore the group identifier is not include in the request and Matsubara, et al., do not provide a broadcast message which always includes a terminal group sub-field IF (Fig. 2, patent application) which is extracted from the broadcast message to extract the group identifier of the sender terminal, as specified in the second portion of claim 2. The sub-field IF is continuously included in the message thereby being compared with the group identifier stored in each terminal T₁ to T_N.

The U. S. Caffarelli, et al, patent No. 6,091,686 discloses a directory field 335 which is provided to construct directory structures and included in a packet (Fig.8) containing directory entry information and stored a data area of track for a compact disc. The technical field of compact disc is very away from the problems of management of network. Furthermore Matsubara does not teach the construction of a directory by means

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of construction information transmitted in packets to terminals and therefore the directory field according to Caffarelli is not useful to build a Mastubara table (memory section 119).

Claim 3 in combination with claim 1 is thus patentable with Matsubara, et al., when considered in view of Caffarelli, et al.

Favorable action is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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